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Cultivating Dreams - Harvesting Profits, Women In Agriculture 2009

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CORNHUSKER ECONOMICS

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln

March 4, 2009

University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension

Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources
Department of Agricultural Economics
<http://www.agecon.unl.edu/Cornhuskereconomics.html>

Cultivating Dreams - Harvesting Profits, Women In Agriculture 2009

Market Report	Yr Ago	4 Wks Ago	2/27/09
<u>Livestock and Products,</u>			
<u>Weekly Average</u>			
Nebraska Slaughter Steers, 35-65% Choice, Live Weight.	\$93.13	\$79.98	\$81.15
Nebraska Feeder Steers, Med. & Large Frame, 550-600 lb. . . .	125.17	112.95	113.09
Nebraska Feeder Steers, Med. & Large Frame 750-800 lb. . . .	98.73	93.90	89.90
Choice Boxed Beef, 600-750 lb. Carcass.	149.41	145.47	133.30
Western Corn Belt Base Hog Price Carcass, Negotiated.	56.41	60.86	54.87
Feeder Pigs, National Direct 50 lbs, FOB.	49.76	62.06	53.00
Pork Carcass Cutout, 185 lb. Carcass, 51-52% Lean.	60.45	57.49	56.31
Slaughter Lambs, Ch. & Pr., Heavy, Wooled, South Dakota, Direct.	89.63	88.62	96.63
National Carcass Lamb Cutout, FOB.	258.01	252.62	247.42
<u>Crops,</u>			
<u>Daily Spot Prices</u>			
Wheat, No. 1, H.W. Imperial, bu.	10.90	5.21	4.83
Corn, No. 2, Yellow Omaha, bu.	5.27	3.65	3.44
Soybeans, No. 1, Yellow Omaha, bu.	14.40	9.57	8.61
Grain Sorghum, No. 2, Yellow Dorchester, cwt.	9.29	5.07	5.09
Oats, No. 2, Heavy Minneapolis, MN, bu.	4.23	2.08	1.89
<u>Feed</u>			
Alfalfa, Large Square Bales, Good to Premium, RFV 160-185 Northeast Nebraska, ton.	135.00	*	190.00
Alfalfa, Large Rounds, Good Platte Valley, ton.	85.00	77.50	77.50
Grass Hay, Large Rounds, Premium Nebraska, ton.	*	85.00	85.00
Dried Distillers Grains, 10% Moisture, Nebraska Average.	162.50	140.00	130.00
Wet Distillers Grains, 65-70% Moisture, Nebraska Average.	63.87	47.62	45.13
*No Market			

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln Department of Agricultural Economics hosted the 24th Women in Agriculture (WIA) Conference February 26-27, 2009. Over 350 women participated in the event. A majority came from across the great state of Nebraska, but there were a few individuals that made the trip from California, Colorado, North Carolina, Kansas, Iowa and South Dakota. For some women, this was their first time experiencing the conference and for others it was their 24th time. Average attendance among the women was approximately 6.5 times. The main goal of the conference was to heighten the womens' skills and gain knowledge to take back to their agricultural operations.

Over the past 24 years we have had a diverse group of participants, and our diversity continues to grow. We had a wonderful representation from participants, booth attendants, sponsors, staff members and student scholarship winners. The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) presented three full scholarships for UNL students, and ten partial scholarships for other community colleges and high school students. All of our sponsors helped make the conference a huge success and provided great resources to the participants! (See complete list on WIA website: wia.unl.edu)

Participants spent their time listening to keynote speakers, attending a variety of workshop sessions, and socializing with other women. There were several speakers scattered throughout the conference that everyone had the opportunity to listen to. Susie Oberdahlhoff (a farm wife described as the "Erma Bombeck of Ag") kicked-off the conference with a humorous look at the life of a farmer's wife. She told the participants that they need to learn how to "bounce" and encouraged them with her motto, "If You Rest, You Rot!" Sharry Nielsen, a UNL Extension Educator, spoke at lunch on Thursday about farm safety and its importance. For the dinner entertainment the ladies were serenaded by the University of Nebraska–Kearney show choir, Nebraskats. A combination of new and old tunes from several genres was performed, along



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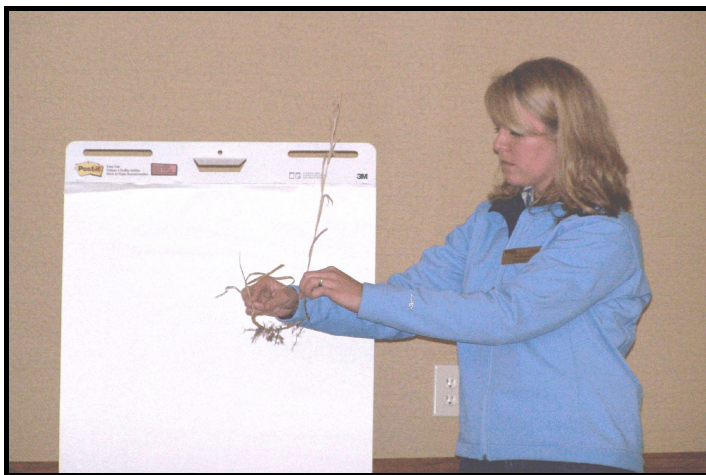
with creative actions and eye catching outfits to amuse the conference audience. Friday began with Dr. Ron Hanson from the Dept. of Ag Economics at UNL speaking to the participants about “What Happens When Mom Takes Over the Family Farm.” To conclude the conference Dr. Vincent Amanor-Boadu, Professor of Agribusiness at Kansas State University, sent everyone home with his thoughts on “How to Succeed



“Eat the Ugliest Frog First”
Kathy Koch, Financial Advisor, Strategic Legacy Advisors

abilities. As a result of the conference, a Thurston County woman said she would “Do a better job of retirement planning; we need to update our will.”

The conference is designed to provide useful information to participants. We encourage them to use their newly gained knowledge and skills and incorporate it into their farming operation. One participant from Phelps County said that over the next ten



“Monitoring Your Pastures-What Will It Tell You?”
Bethany Johnston, UNL Extension Educator - Central Sandhills



“Digital Cameras-Putting Them to Full Use”
Jenny Nixon, UNL Extension Educator, Nixon County

in Tough Times.” A participant from York County expressed her thoughts about the keynote speaker in this manner, “Dr. Amanor-Boadu brought it all together into a global perspective, a very nice ending to bring it full circle.”

The WIA Conference hosted 35 workshops to address new issues, refine old practices and create networking opportunities for the participants. Some of the workshops that attracted the highest attendance included “How Much Did Your Lawyer Cost Our Family Farm?” by Dr. Ron Hanson (UNL); “Eat the Ugliest Frog First” by Kathy Koch (Strategic Legacy Advisors); “Quicken Series” with Jenny Nixon, Rob Eirich and Dewey Teel (UNL Extension Educators); “Ag Land Leasing: Making it a “Win-Win” Situation” by Ben Bloomendahl (UNL Ag Economics Graduate Student); and “Animal Rights Agenda-Fact or Fiction” by Roger Berry (Field Director, Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska). The variety of workshop topics ranged from wind leases to livestock, and from financials to grain contracting. Some of the topics spurred the participants to be proactive in their thinking about their operations. From the information currently analyzed, 70 percent of women noted the workshops increased their knowledge of the subject matter. Over half of the women felt the workshops increased their skills and

years, she would like to “involve her second son in the operation.” Over the next ten years a Holt County woman is bound and determined to “increase their livestock herd and try to make some of her ideas work.”

We look at the WIA Conference as more than just a conference, but a tool to educate and empower our participants.

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